



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

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For More Information, Contact:
Loreeta Leer Frank
Public Information Officer
North Dakota Department of Health
Phone: 701.328.1665
Cell phone: 701.400.4619
E-mail: rfrank@state.nd.us

Two New Salmonella Cases Reported in Williston ***State Health Department Broadens Disease Investigation***

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health today received reports of two new cases of salmonella infection in Williston, according to State Epidemiologist Kirby Kruger. This brings to 12 the total number of cases of salmonella confirmed since June 2, 2005.

In addition, laboratory tests completed on several of the cases indicate that they were infected with the same organism. According to Kruger, this leads disease investigators to believe that the same source may be responsible for the infections.

“The laboratory results we received today are from the second group of individuals who became ill,” Kruger said. “As we continue to look for a common link among all of those who have been infected, we are broadening our investigation to look at other possible sources. For example, we are exploring whether a contaminated product could have been distributed to several different establishments in the area.”

To determine the source of the salmonella infections, the Department of Health will continue interviewing people who have become ill, conducting laboratory tests and looking at food-handling procedures. In addition, the department is consulting with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to see whether other states have reported similar infections.

Earlier interviews with those who became ill suggested a possible link with prepared food purchased at a Williston grocery store. While this possibility still exists, a definitive link to the store or its products has not been found. The Department of Health continues to work with the store and its management to determine if there is any association.

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600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept. 301, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0200
Phone: 701.328.2372 Fax: 701.328.4727 E-mail: health@state.nd.us

Visit the health department home page at www.ndhealth.gov.

“Discovering the source of food-borne illness outbreaks often is difficult,” Kruger said. “While I wish we had definitive answers to this puzzle, we still have many pieces missing. However, we will continue exploring possible sources for this infection.”

For information about preventing the spread of salmonella and other food-borne illnesses, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/food/safety.htm>.

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